

MAYOR R. L. COOPER SHOOTS SELF AT HIS OFFICE TUESDAY A.M.

Prominent Lumberman, Civic Leader and Popular Citizen Sends Bullet Through Head; Financial Reverses and Gen- eral Depressive Conditions Thought To Be Cause

The entire community was shocked and deeply grieved on Tuesday morning when news was spread of the death of Mr. R. L. Cooper, Mayor of the City, lumberman and one of the most prominent citizens of this section of Southeast Alabama. His body was found in the office of his lumber yard in West Elba with a bullet through his head. Circumstances surrounding the tragedy indicate that he came to his death by his own hand.

Mr. Cooper, a man of large business connections, had met many reverses during the past two years and for many weeks it was known that he was very depressed, how ever, it was not thought that he contemplated such an act as self-destruction. He went to the lumber plant early Tuesday morning and there met Mr. L. P. Mullins and they conversed for some time. Mr. Mullins came over in town on some business and when he returned to the office he found his employer dead on the floor.

One witness at the coroner's inquest, who lived near the office, stated that he heard a pistol shot, and when he looked out he saw Mr. Cooper walking into the office with the gun in his hand, and a moment later heard another shot. The bullet left its mark on the door of Mr. Cooper's car, which was parked in front of the office, having gone through the door and striking the lower end of the front fender, indicating that the shot came from the inside of the car. It is surmised that the gun was as it was removed from the pocket on the door. The position of the body indicated that he did not struggle after falling. The bullet entered at the upper part of the right ear and came out on the back of the head. The gun was found near his feet.

Mr. Cooper was born at Hatchedville, Ala., on December 12, 1881. He came to Elba about 15 years ago from Brantley, where he had resided for several years. He engaged in the lumber business here and was the owner of the R. L. Cooper Lumber Company, which he has operated, and also had other businesses throughout the county. His lumber plant was the largest which has been in operation here for many years.

As Mayor of the City of Elba, Mr. Cooper has made an enviable reputation, and was serving on his second term as such official. During the flood of 1920 he was tireless in his efforts to bring relief to the people and to make the city habitable, and spent his time and personal funds in this work, reflecting his own home and his business interests. For his heroic work during that particular period, the people owe him a debt of gratitude which now can never be paid.

Mr. Cooper was also president of the Elba Lions Club, an organization in which he took an active part. Many worthwhile undertakings had been planned and put under way during his term of office and the Club will feel keenly the loss of one of its best members. In all public affairs Mr. Cooper took an active interest and was loyal to every cause that he championed. During the political campaign last fall he was Chairman of the County Democratic forces and rendered invaluable services to his party. In his passing the City of Elba, Coffee County and this entire section of the State lose one of its most loyal friends, and a leader whose place cannot easily be filled.

Mr. Cooper is survived by his wife, Mrs. Nell Bancroft Cooper, and the following children: Robert, Jr., Emma Margaret, Bancroft and Edwin. His mother, Mrs. Margaret Cooper, of Elba, two sisters, Mrs. W. E. Cooper of Brantley and

Mrs. Roy Bullard of Curtis was a guest of Mrs. Eula Bullard last Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmore Carlwell of Troy visited Elba relatives last Sunday.

Dr. and Mrs. W. R. Crook and Mrs. J. W. Kendrick visited in Enterprise Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Marley and Miss Nan Marley spent Friday in Montgomery.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Lee of Enterprise were guests of Mr. Lee's parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. Lee, Sunday.

Miss Carrie Vaughn of Dothan was a week end guest of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Vaughn.

Mrs. Annie King and Miss Anita King of Andalusia were week end guests of Elba relatives.

Dr. W. R. Crook made a business trip to Mobile Friday.

THE ELBA CLIPPER

ELBA, ALABAMA, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1931

Elba Has Better Football Schedule Than Last Year

Elba football fans will be glad to know that some good games have been scheduled for this season. It will be seen at a glance that this year's schedule is a much better one than last year's. Especially is this true in regard to the games to be played on Elba's field.

The Tigers play their first game of the present season at Brundage on Thursday of this week, which should give the Bengals a good opportunity to whet their claws for the hard games to come. A full schedule of games has been completed with the exception of Thanksgiving Day which, so far, is open. It is to be hoped that a strong team may be secured for Turkey Day. Five games are to be played at home and three abroad. Following is the schedule:

Oct. 1—Brundage at Brundage.
Oct. 8—Dozier at Elba.
Oct. 16—Florida at Elba.
Oct. 23—Greenville at Greenville.
Oct. 30—Georgiana at Elba.
Nov. 6—Hartford at Elba.
Nov. 13—Straughton at Elba.
Nov. 20—Ozark at Ozark.
Nov. 27—Open.

Reports from the scrimmage field indicate that Coach Morgan is whipping the Tiger squad into a formidable grid machine. The cool weather of the past few days has put new pep into the boys and it is predicted that Elba football enthusiasts may rest assured that they will be treated to some good exhibitions of the pickin game the coming season.

Leadership School To Be Held In Elba Thursday

ENTERPRISE, Sept. 27.—Miss Alys Hughes, home demonstration agent, has announced that a leadership school to be held in all day session in the court house in Elba Thursday, October first.

Miss Dorothy Dean, clothing specialist of the Auburn extension service, will assist the county agent in this work.

This school is the first unit in the study of clothing, which is the major project for the year. Miss Dean will outline the entire program. Two outstanding details will be the study of the fitted garment and the utilization of cotton makes.

The demonstration leaders have been selected from among the householders, feed sacks, salt sacks, and other such containers may be used in making garments for the household.

The leaders from the 13 Women's Home Demonstration clubs of Coffee County will be present at this meeting and will carry back to their 300 members instruction and inspiration for the winter's work.

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A SPECIAL SERVICE FOR MEN AND BOYS SUNDY AFTERNOON

Great crowds of people continue to attend the revival meetings at the tent on the Rainier lot, which is being conducted by Rev. J. A. Davis, evangelist, of Greenville, S. C. The meeting is in its third week and the longer it runs the greater the interest becomes. The huge tent, which is said to seat 2,000 people, was comfortably filled every night last week and on Thursday night the tent was open. It is to be hoped that a strong team may be secured for Turkey Day. Five games are to be played at home and three abroad. Following is the schedule:

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